The Vale Voice
Working together for a sustainable future

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Kronau Project Update

A great deal has happened in recent months with Vale’s Kronau Project. While the project is still in the early stages, we are making measurable progress and remain excited about the potential of this resource.

Among the major developments in the project:

New Project Manager – Hired:
We are pleased to welcome Dr. Matthew Wood, who joined as the new Project Manager in August 2012. Matthew brings to the table a high degree of expertise and experience from his native Australia as well as from other projects from around the world. Matthew has already proven a tremendous asset to our local management team. His contributions to our corporate curling team, however, are a different story. You can learn more about him in our “Meet the Team” section.

Water source selection – Complete:
The study evaluating Katepwa Lake and Buffalo Pound Lake as water source options to support the Kronau Project has been completed. The Buffalo Pound Lake option was the most favourable solution since it provides the most value to the Kronau Project and carries with it the least amount of risk.
As part of this process, Vale continued to work with the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency (formerly known as the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority) and they have also recommended the Buffalo Pound Lake option.
Key benefits of the Buffalo Pound Lake option include higher availability of water and the potential for sharing infrastructure with other industrial partners.

Environmental Impact Statement – Near Complete:
With the water source location finalized, Vale’s current focus is on completing the Kronau Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will present the entire baseline environmental and socio-economic data that has been gathered since early 2010. It will also describe the project mitigation measures and assess the potential environmental effects. Vale anticipates community information sessions to be rolled out in mid-2013. Specific details will be released once they are confirmed.

Project timelines – Ongoing:
While preliminary work continues on the Kronau Project, we haven’t yet finalized new construction milestones. Vale is also now considering other funding options to support the continued development of the Kronau Project. A range of options are being examined, from divestment to joint venture partnerships. Vale is in the early stage of this process and no specific proposals have been developed yet. Preliminary work will continue advancing the project while these discussions take place. We remain committed to keeping all stakeholders informed as information becomes available.

On the Cover
Back row, left-to-right: Don McMorris, Trevor Glas, Cameron Hoffart, Angel Ell, Matthew Wood
Front row, left-to-right: Lona Gervais, Dawn Leippi, Daniel Ell, Murray Leippi, Brad Schneider, Lianne Gooding

Check out our project website to get the latest updates on the Kronau Project.
www.valepotashcanada.ca

Photo supplied by Stacey Fortner.
The sport of curling may have originated in Scotland but its heart lies firmly in Saskatchewan. Kronau holds a special place in Saskatchewan curling culture. The town has a Hall of Fame of provincial, national and international champions that stretches back for generations.

It is no surprise, then, that the Kronau Curling Club has played a central and, at times, colourful part in local history. When the town’s original rink was destroyed by a plough wind in 1974, the community bought the Highland Curling Club’s building and moved it, piece by piece, from Regina. Kronau residents showed the same spirit of determination when it came time to replace their rink again. In 2008 when the rink began to show signs of disrepair, the volunteer board launched fundraising efforts.

The money was being raised and the construction work had just begun when the project faced a major setback.

"Originally, we just wanted to renovate the inside," said Lona Gervais, chair of the Kronau Community Recreation Co-operative. "But once we took the inside of the building apart, we found some serious problems that were going to end up costing more to renovate than rebuild. We didn’t want the renovation to be for nothing, so we decided to rebuild."

As it turns out, rebuilding was a good decision. Later on in 2011, the contractor raised concerns about the structural integrity of the building. In addition, there were problems with insulation, ventilation and mould. This all added up to steeply increased costs that were a big challenge for a small town to tackle. Vale was proud to partner with the federal and provincial government to give a boost to the town’s fundraising efforts. As part of our ongoing commitment of investing in the community, Vale contributed towards the rebuilding of the rink so it could be completed.

Dr. Matthew Wood, Vale’s Kronau Project Manager participated in the Grand Opening of the new rink on October 13, 2012.

"Strong communities are good places to do business. As the world’s second largest mining company, Vale owes much of our success to the individual communities who make up the larger whole," Wood said.

"For us, it’s not just about the people who are directly or indirectly employed by Vale. It’s also about the people in the community – the people who live where we live, work where we work and play where we play."

Representatives from the federal and provincial governments were also on hand at the event.

"Our government is pleased to support projects like this one that build communities and promote the Saskatchewan Advantage," said provincial Highways and Infrastructure Minister Don McMorris.

Wood conveyed Vale’s admiration for the volunteer effort that brought the project together.

“You are responsible for strengthening this community. You have built a legacy for generations to come. You are the leaders who allow Saskatchewan to flourish. And your ‘make it happen’ attitude is something everyone can learn from."

After losing an entire curling season in 2011-2012 due to construction delays, the Kronau Curling Club is now back in action and better than ever. In addition to the spruced-up lobby and lounge areas, the rink features a new commercial-quality kitchen and expanded facilities for community events.
Meet the Team

Meet our Kronau Project team members:

Matthew Wood
Kronau Project Manager
We are very pleased to welcome to the Kronau Project Dr. Matthew Wood, originally from Australia, who has travelled the globe to reach Regina. Matthew holds a chemical engineering Degree and Ph.D. from the University of Queensland, Australia.
Matthew worked on a number of mining projects for Rio Tinto that took him from Australia to South America to the U.K. (where he met his wife). In August 2012, Matthew accepted the Project Manager position for the Kronau Project and he, his wife, and their pride and joy two-year-old daughter moved to Regina. Matthew says the friendly welcome and warm summer weather made the transition to Regina easy – although his family is still a bit uncertain about winter!

Chris Hartle
Senior Geologist
Chris has been a part of the Vale team in Saskatchewan since we first set up a warehouse and office in Emerald Park in 2009. In fact, Chris has been a loyal Vale employee for over a dozen years, having spent his entire career with either Vale or INCO (which Vale acquired in 2007). A professional geologist, Chris studied his craft at Carleton University in Ottawa. His career has taken him across Canada and around the world.
In his free time, Chris is a connoisseur of fine food and wine. He boasts an extensive wine collection to make sure he has the perfect bottle for any occasion. He also enjoys gemology, photography and woodworking. However, he is better known around the office as a home renovation and baking superstar!

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Get to Know Vale

Vale is a global mining company that discovers and transforms minerals into the essential ingredients for everyday life. Vale Potash Canada Limited is a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of Vale S. A. (South America).
The Vale Voice is a Vale Potash Canada Limited newsletter that will provide updates on our company and the Kronau Project. To sign up and receive The Vale Voice as a mail-out or PDF file, please email: kronau.project@vale.com.